Talks for Repatriation of Bangladeshis

†*148. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally in India;

(b) whether any meaningful negotiations have been held with Bangladesh to send them back to Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, what progress has been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) It is difficult to make a realistic estimate of the number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has taken up. at various levels, with the Government of Bangladesh the question of illegal immigration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. The official stand of the Government of Bangladesh has been that there are no Bangladeshi illegal immigrants in India. They have however, assured that measures will be taken to strengthen security at the border and prevent illegal border crossing.

Financial Crunch in the Public Sector Textile Mills

*149. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to provide Technology Upgradation Fund for cash trapped textile industry have totally flopped;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the textile industry throughout the country, particularly the Public Sector Textile Mills, are facing finanical crunch; and

(d) if so, the step Government propose to take in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILE (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile and jute industries was launched only on April 1, 1999. It will be in operation upto March 31, 2004. The scheme seeks to facilitiate the availability of loans from financial institutions with reimbursement of 5 percentage points on interest payable.

The principal objective of the scheme is to meet the modernisation needs of the textile and jute industries to enhance their viability, and competitiveness in the domestic as well as international markets. Any textile unit, which is eligible as per the normal lending norms of the concerned financial institutions and fulfils the benchmark criteria of the scheme, can avail of funds under the Scheme. Till October 31, 1999, one sixty two (162) application with project cost amounting to Rs. 4276 crore have been received by the concerned financial agencies and ninety one (91) applications have been sanctioned loans amount to Rs. 1188 crore under the scheme. The response to the scheme is expected to improve further.

(c) and (d) At any given point of time, industrial units including textile units incur losses on account of varied reasons, such as, recession in the market, industrial unrest and other operational problems leading to difficulties in obtaining adequate working capital. As far as Public Sector textiles mills are concerned, the National Textile Corporation Ltd. (NTC) and British India Corporation Ltd. (BIC), are facing acute shortage of working capital, on account of incurrence of continuing losses because of varied reasons such as technology obsolescence and surplus man-power. In respect of textile PSUs, the Government is providing funds for meeting their shortfall towards payment of salaries and wages. 8 Subsidiaries of NTC (out of 9) stand towards referred to BIFR. In the case of BIC the matter is pending before the Allahabad High Court.

Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, (SICA) 1985 and established the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial meassures which need to be taken in respect of such companies both in public and private sector.